

November 2, 2018

**The National Security Committee Report: Having National Discussions
about Japan's National Security System
(Summary)**

■ Critical questions

Since the end of World War II, Japan has adopted an exclusively defense-oriented national security policy as a peace-loving nation, and has restricted the possession and exercise of military might. But considering the destabilizing security environment around Japan in recent years and the increasing necessity of defense in outer space and cyberspace, we cannot help but have doubts about whether or not the current defense system is actually effective.

National security should be supported by a wide range of discussions based on a keen interest of people in Japan. But changes in the interpretation of the constitution and laws were the measures which Japan adopted to cope with national security challenges. A limited number of experts were entrusted to discuss the specifics of the defense policy, which prevented a common national awareness of security among Japanese people from being developed.

Currently a great deal of public attention is being paid to the discussions about amendment of the constitution, including Article 9. "The National Defense Program Guidelines for FY2019" is to formulate as a defense capabilities development program for the next ten years or so, which would be decided by the end of 2018. In viewing this development, we, as corporate executives, decided to consider national security issues, organize points of view about important issues and stimulate national discussions.

■Three points of view

It is necessary to discuss national security issues from the following three points of view for national discussion:

(1) **Global standards**

Japan should consider issues in light of the global standards.

(2) **Backcasting**

Japan should consider what it should do now, looking ahead to future challenges.

(3) **Background**

Japan should consider the feasibility of what should be done in light of the historical difficulties it faced in the past.

■Important issues to be considered regarding Japan's national security system (excerpts)

(1) **Procurement and research and development of defense equipment**

- Japan is requested to expand its purchases of US-made weaponry to reduce the trade imbalance with the United States. But this could threaten Japan's defense equipment production and technological bases. Japan needs to have sufficient discussions about procurement and research and development of defense equipment and consider action as an independent nation.
- With technological innovations making progress, such as artificial intelligence (AI) and robotics, it is important to boost Japan's deterrence and response capabilities by acquiring advanced technologies.

(2) **Cybersecurity**

- It is necessary to establish an organization with a more powerful authority than the current National Center of Incident Readiness and Strategy for Cybersecurity within the government.
- Cybersecurity measures of small and medium-sized businesses need to be accelerated by policy incentives, such as subsidies and tax reductions.

(3) A proposal for the amendment of the constitution

- Regarding the amendment of Article 9 of the constitution, it is important for politicians to explain its significance sufficiently and for the Japanese people to have a wide range of discussions.
- In newly establishing provisions for state of emergency, only major disasters are currently taken into consideration. But it is also necessary to discuss in peacetime, armed attacks by foreign countries and major acts of terrorism as possible incidents at the time of an emergency.

(4) The establishment of an intelligence agency

- To establish an independent intelligence agency for foreign affairs, it is necessary to first review a budget distribution of intelligence activities that are conducted within some government agencies.

(5) Securing democratic governance

- A great deal of attention was paid to the civilian control and democratic governance of the Ministry of Defense and the Self-Defense Forces over the management of official documents about UN Peacekeeping Operations (PKO) in South Sudan. It is important for top politicians to understand and show leadership in diplomatic and security policies. Government organizations should reform their mindset regarding information management and disclosure.

(6) Measures from the perspective of comprehensive national security

- Japan should contribute to solving global challenges, such as climate change and the cross-border migration of people that could cause conflicts, in terms of both security and the economy, with a focus on ensuring comprehensive security.

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